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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** June 10, 2004 04-24

## **Grand Teton National Park** News Release

## **Lightning Strike Ignites First Fire in Grand Teton National Park**

Interagency fire crews responded to a report of smoke two miles west of Moran Junction near the Oxbow Bend of the Snake River at about 2:20 p.m. Wednesday, June 9. Active thunderstorms with numerous lightning strikes moving through Grand Teton National Park on Tuesday night and early Wednesday apparently ignited a fire. The Signal Fire was contained at one quarter acre by 5:25 Wednesday afternoon.

An initial attack crew responded to the Signal Fire with the assistance of park river rangers who shuttled fire personnel and gear across the Snake River to reach the site on the north side of Signal Mountain where the fire was located. Firefighters used a small portable pump, hose, and hand tools to contain the fire. Steady rainfall today has dampened the Signal Fire, but crews will continue to monitor the site as additional thunderstorms, winds, and lightning are expected to move through the area this afternoon and evening.

Despite the recent precipitation, the greater Jackson Hole area continues to experience effects from an extended drought. Area visitors and residents are reminded that warm, dry days with gusty winds could quickly increase the risk of a wildland fire. To report a fire in Grand Teton National Park or on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, please call (307) 739-3630.

Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004 www.nps.gov/grte